



The GRANGE

Issue: 73

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1998



Flo Morson was graduated from the University of Toronto in Modern History and then went on to take her M.A. in Canadian History which she later taught at U of T and Yorks Mills C.I.

She has been a docent in both young adult and adult education at the AGO, Secretary of the Volunteer Committee, and Chair of the Barnes Meeters and Greeters, before being Chair of The Grange.

Elections Canada saw her as returning officer for six elections in the Eglinton-Lawrence riding. The Elizabeth Fry Society and the University Women's Club have also garnered a considerable amount of Flo's time as well as the Muskoka Lakes Museum where she has been a director.

Flo has been very involved with the United Church where she worked for ten years as a writer and editor. She has just completed chairing the Internship Committee of the Toronto Conference of the United Church, and has now taken on the role of Chair of its Chaplaincy Committee for the coming year.

A good athlete, Flo plays squash and badminton in the winter (when she's not travelling) and golf in the summer near her beloved island on Lake Muskoka. Here, she spends as much time as possible reading, entertaining and paddling a mean canoe accompanied by her husband, Alan and children, Stephen, Scott and Beth, along with three grandchildren.

Flo is a very organized, well-informed leader, who has a very compassionate side to her personality. The Grange has been lucky to have her at the helm for the past three years.

We will miss your leadership, Flo.

Good luck with your next challenge.

FAREWELL FROM FLO

FLO MORSON, THE GRANGE CHAIR
MAY/95-MAY/98

It has been a challenging and exciting year for all - with the retirement of secretary / coordinator, Peggy Eades; our new alignment under the Canadian Curatorial Department; the exciting changes in the volunteer sector of the AGO and the appointment of Jenny Rieger as curatorial assistant.

The Communications Committee, under the direction of Marg McGuigan, is working to develop new external and internal Grange brochures and has initiated a new computerized mailing list and volunteer database. Elaine Maloney produced six newsletters.

Pat Robertson coordinated our popular Daily Pursuits program. Over 260 students participated. During Spring Break, two new handouts were introduced. Over 100 school trips and ESL groups were toured by the daily shifts.

Treasurer Helen Brown took over the financial administration responsibilities at The Grange. We are indebted to her for her willingness to rise to the occasion which certainly was not in her job description.

Grange Dinners: What would we do without Jane Ash and Sally Lowrey who plan, shop, cook and, yes, clean up for our training dinners and catering events? There were five training dinners, three lectures, a Grange Volunteers' party, Shoppers' Day, the Education Department's Christmas party, the Volunteer Committee Appreciation Tea, the Art in Bloom Tea and our Annual Meeting. Special kudos to Nancy Lofft - your shortbread is wonderful.

Jane Heinemann and her Monday team do an excellent job of caring for the house, exploring new ways to interpret the rooms, making curtains, bagging and storing all the linens and expediting the cleaning of the walls.

Anna Patrick continues to bring to The Grange Historic Kitchens her professional expertise which has improved safety, sanitation and hygiene through a kitchen refresher workshop, a fire safety lecture, circulation of relevant

materials and purchase of items to enhance these standards. Al DeMatos maintained our bread supply and the Sunday volunteers provided cooking experience for Family Sundays. New period recipes are being developed as are new policies and procedures for ordering.

Again this year, Helvi Hunter organized stimulating training lectures and our historical interests were further heightened by our bus trips - to Port Hope last year and to the ghost towns of Ontario this month.

What would we do without Avril Stringer and her research? Articles from nineteenth century newspapers and magazines; re-issues of paper and letters; research of Marjery Boulton, our donor, and the other Boultons greatly add to our interpretive skills.

Special Events coordinator, Elvira Putrus organized a Christmas concert, Spring Break with over 2,000 visitors and an expanded Family Sundays program complete with new pin-pricking designs.

Coordinating 85 Grange volunteers was the work of Georgette Caldwell. Eight new volunteers have been costumed and seven are in training. A next of kin list was prepared and all ID cards have been magnetized.

The Grange Council was chaired by Michael McClelland and Council member, Marilyn Litvak took on chairing our successful fall lecture series, *Toronto Talks*.

Nothing would have been possible this year without our Day Captains and volunteers. The Day Captains, who are the true managers of The Grange dealt with emergencies and made sure things happened and all of you, each volunteer who came faithfully every week to interpret and to maintain the house, you made The Grange what it is - the best historical house in Canada. Congratulations.

I want to say how much I owe everyone of you for making these three years so interesting, stimulating and fun filled. Yes, certain agendas did not get realized, but my main goal did - to have a curatorial staff person at The Grange. I retire bursting with joy for you and for The Grange. We look forward to welcoming back to The Grange, Mona Rankin, our new chair. I know with the continued enthusiastic support of all of you, we will go onto great things at The Grange in the coming year.

Flo Morson

The Grange Volunteer Committee 1997-98

THANKS TO ALL

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REMINDER

Please submit your news
articles for the next
Grange Newsletter by
AUG 25 th, 1998.

NEW! The Grange Volunteer Com- mittee 1998-99

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DAY CAPTAINS

Monday: Jane Heinemann

Tuesday: Elvira Putrus

Wednesday: Cathy Stroud

Wednesday Bridge: Helvi Hunter

Wednesday Eve: Marg McGuigan

Thursday: June O'Brien

Friday: Beverley Sutton

Saturday: Helen Brown

Sunday: Edna Rigby

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CURATORIAL ASSISTANT

Jenny Rieger
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COMING EVENTS

Preview of the Courtald Exhibition for All Staff & Volunteers

Date: June 2nd, 1998

Time: 1:00-5:00 pm

Lecture / Slide Show of the Courtald Exhibition with Francis Braun

Date: Monday, June 8 th, 1998

Time: 12:00 noon

Music Room, The Grange

Fee: \$5.00

Bring a bagged lunch.

See you there.

Open House - Everyone Welcome !

Date: Monday, June 8th, 1998

Time: from 2:00 pm on

Place: Helen Hatton

22 A Phoebe Street

CHANGE & CONTINUITY

The 17th Annual Meeting of The Grange Volunteer Committee was held Monday, May 11, 1998 at 6:00 pm.

Guest speaker was Dennis Reid, Senior Curator, Canadian Art. The focus of Mr. Reid's message was that of change and continuity at The Grange.

Reid led us through the history of change relating to the house from the mid-1840s with the renovations of the house and lands transferred, to 1911 when the house was no longer a home but rather the beginnings of the site of the present day Art Gallery.

The Grange initially served as an administrative centre for the Art Gallery, it hosted art classes and housed the AGO library. In the 1970s changes were made again as the house was restored to the 1840s period after lengthy fundraising endeavours by the Volunteer Committee. The recession of the early 1980s saw lay-offs of salaried staff within The Grange and subsequently, the use of volunteer historical interpreters to keep the house open. In the last ten years we have seen other changes that have affected The Grange with the Stage III AGO renovations that linked The Grange with the AGO via the Sculpture Gallery as a positive change and the decrease of government funding as a more negative one.

The challenges of today are to explore our options and bring a sense of the role of The Grange through history to the visitors. This can be done by reinforcing The Grange's connection with the AGO by collaborating with the Canadian Collection, the European department and even the Contemporary department. Jenny Rieger, Curatorial Assistant of The Grange is here to help facilitate the changes that are ahead of us. The loyalty and intelligence of The Grange volunteers is much revered and it is also with their help that The Grange arrives at its sense of history and its sense of place. -Elaine Maloney

CURATORIAL CORNER !

by Jenny Rieger

For those of you who have not yet heard, the Board of Directors at the AGO agreed to make the position of "Curatorial Assistant in the Department of Canadian Art Responsible for The Grange" a permanent position and offered it to me. Dennis Reid, Michael McClelland, Flo Morson and The Grange Council deserve a lot of credit for getting this position created, and I'd like to take this time to thank them all. I would also like to thank all The Grange volunteers who have given me such support and encouragement over these past few months. It has made my job here so delightful.

During March Break two new activity sheets were introduced. We have been continuing to actively evaluate them. The booklet, *Welcome to The Grange*, seems suited for children under 8 or 9 accompanied by their parents. If they can read they can do the various activities by themselves. The sheet, *Grange Treasure Hunt*, has proven to be more suitable for the children over 9. It requires that they look at a sketch of a person doing an activity in the house, figure out

that activity, and discover what item is missing for the person to do the activity.

A number of interpreters have asked why we made the change, when the kids enjoyed the old sheets so much. The old sheet only required that the children find the item. It didn't engage them in an exploration of the object or its use. Often the children would just find the item and run off - sometimes while you were telling them about it! These sheets are meant to be fun, meant to keep the visitors with us longer and create an opportunity for interactive learning. I would like your input into how they are working. The suggestions that have come in so far include making the directions clearer, simplifying the pictures and eliminating some of the items that need to be found. Recommendations will be implemented when we reprint the sheets.

I have had the opportunity to lead two very different education programmes. The first was with a group of university students who are doing a humanities course on museums and

galleries with Martha Kelleher, Curator in the European Department. For this programme, we began with a discussion of what the purpose of historic house museums might be and how do we determine whose stories are being told. Issues of myth and historical reality were explored. The students were divided into three groups. Each group was assigned to a particular floor and asked to develop its own interpretive plan for that area. They came up with a number of interesting ideas ranging from fund raising, and drama to actual theatre. The second class was a group of grade 12 students doing a course on the history of housing. For this programme, I worked with Mac Thompson, a docent in the youth education department. We focused on the house in the historical neighbourhood, architectural elements in the house, how to "read a house", depictions of housing and Toronto in art works in the Canadian Galleries, and archaeological evidence found during the Stage III renovations. It was very interesting to put together.

STAFFING

WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS

JUDY SUH-SUNDAY
DAVETTA SAMUELS-ALT SUNDAYS
SARAH WALKER-WEDNESDAY
NADIA ABDELHADY-FRIDAY
TORY THOMPSON-MONDAY
KATHARINE BROWN-SATURDAY

ART IN BLOOM

On April 24th, as part of the Art in Bloom activities, The Grange hosted a lecture by Pleasance Crawford, a former volunteer at The Grange, followed by a tea. It was held in the Music Room which was attractively decorated with beautiful vases of spring flowers. The capacity audience was most appreciative of the refreshments provided by The Grange catering volunteers and many of our guests remarked how much they enjoyed the afternoon. Incidentally, this was the only event during Art in Bloom that was sold out - a tribute to the Committee that worked so hard to organize it.

- Georgette Caldwell

DAILY PURSUITS

Another very successful season has come to a close. Over 265 grade 7 and 8 students were involved in activities such as hearth cookery, food preparation, the making of spills and the cutting of silhouettes. None of this would have been possible were it not for the enthusiastic volunteers: Susan Robins, Al DeMatos, Louise Patterson, Elvira Putrus and Elizabeth Chish-Graham. I am so grateful for their dedication.

- Pat Robertson

GRANGE BUTTONS

New buttons have been ordered. The colours are slightly different.

BUS TRIP

"Best bus trip ever" said a volunteer. Indeed, Ron Brown did a superlative tour of Ghost Towns in the Orangeville area. Lunch was at the Millcroft Inn, one of Ontario's three "Relais and Chateaux" designated inns.

There were some surprises - the Belfountain Park, the Painted Desert and some towns seemingly coming back to life. If you missed it, Ron Brown does this trip for other groups.

- Helvi Hunter

TRAVELLERS

Grange volunteers have been travelling: Avril Stringer on the AGO Texas tour and Saturday Volunteers, Helen Brown, Connie Masters and Sue Robins on Francis Braun's tour to Belgium and Holland.

THANK YOU MESSAGES

Special thanks to the Security Team who work Wednesday evenings and who make that extra effort to direct visitors to The Grange - especially when the Walker Court is being used for a special function.

A thank you to all Maintenance Staff for doing a great job. Thank you to Elizabeth, Tomasa, Ida & Robert for their part in helping The Grange run smoothly.

AGO MEMBERSHIP PARTY

Thanks go to Helen Hutton, Pat Robertson, Al DeMatos and Jenny Rieger who staffed The Grange tours for an AGO Membership Party on March 30/98. Al did a super job interpreting the kitchen and offering his shortbread to 5 tours. Helen and Pat discovered the effectiveness and challenge of short tours.

SPRING WALKING TOURS

The Grange Historical Society's spring walking tour has been placed in the main floor hall drawer. It can be a handy reference for tourists who ask about the neighbourhood.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBIT

Toronto's First Post Office has mounted a photographic exhibit of 30 photographs and artifacts - "A Photographic Journey of The Corner of Duke & George, Adelaide St. E. and George St., 1833-1998." Show runs until October 1998.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION TEA

The Tea was a success due to Nancy Loft, Jane Carruthers, Jane Ash and Sally Lowrey who made hundreds of sandwiches. Cookies were made and donated by Elise Alison, Marie Baggett, Bea Calendino, Helvi Hunter, Pat McGlade, Pat Robertson, Avril Stringer and Ruth Vanderlip. Elvira Putrus poured tea in a costume for over 4 hours! And a gorgeous docent, Carol-Ann Khawly made tea and coffee, putting in a very long day in the Volunteer Office Kitchen.

Thank you everybody.

TRIP TO SAINT ANNE'S CHURCH

The Wednesday evening volunteers took a trip to Saint Anne's Church located in the Dufferin and Dundas St. area. The Reverend Peter Orme gave the group a personal art and historical tour of the church.

The parish of Saint Anne's was founded in 1862. In 1902, Reverend Lawrence Skey inspired the congregation to build a new church as the original one was overcrowded. A design competition was held and Toronto architect, W. Ford Howland won with a pure Byzantine design modeled on the floor plan and dome of St. Sophia in Istanbul.

In 1923, J.E.H. Macdonald was chosen as director of interior art and decoration of the church. Among the many local artists whose paintings and sculpture decorate the ceiling of Saint Anne's are two other members of the Group of Seven, Frank Carmichael and Fred Varley.

Restoration and renovations of Saint Anne's is an insurmountable task and one that is ongoing. Peter Orme, his parish and volunteers continue to persevere in their challenge to keep Saint Anne's in its rare and dignified glory.



Tour of Saint Anne's Church, April 18/98. From left to right: Denis Michel, Elaine Maloney, Marg McGuigan, Rev. Peter Orme, Pat Robertson & Linda Tyrrell.

BOOK REVIEW

Mrs. King: The Life and Times of Isabel Mackenzie King, by Charlotte Gray
Toronto, Viking, 1997 386 p. ill.

This book covers the period of our history extending from the Family Compact to the early days of modern Canada.

As the daughter of William Lyon Mackenzie, Isabel Mackenzie King spent her childhood years in exile, an experience which left her determined to escape from the poverty and disgrace of her early life.

While Mrs. King was very conscious of, and determined to maintain, the social position she felt to be her due; she was never able to escape from her life of genteel poverty. She did enjoy the triumph of seeing her elder son become a successful politician.

Two periods of her life were spent in Toronto, one at 147 Beverley Street and the second at 4 Grange Road. Both of these houses overlooked Grange Park and Mrs. King became acquainted with the Goldwin Smiths. She was entertained at the Grange and enjoyed playing whist with Goldwin Smith.

The book also discusses the relationship between Mrs. King and her son, William Lyon Mackenzie King, his abnormal feelings for her, and his growing interest in spiritualism after her death.

This is an absorbing account of the King family and the times they lived in. It is a book you will enjoy.

*Reviewed by Mary Ash,
Grange Library (Friday)*

More on MARGERY BOULTON

The following are excerpts of a letter from Margaret Hornby, Colchester, England regarding Margery Boulton.

- Miss Margery Florence Boulton was the youngest of four children of Claude Alexander Forster Boulton and was from her childhood, known as "Boultie".
- Her father married an English woman and they eventually moved back to England.
- Their first child, D'Arcy, died as a baby.
- There were three other children: Forster, who became a Midshipman in the English Navy; Douglas, who went into the the Indian Civil Service and Boultie, who was born in 1903. Her mother died almost immediately after her birth and it was then that "Aunt Harriet" (Alexander Claude's Aunt Harriet Eliza Boulton) went to England to look after the three small children.
- Forster served in the Falklands Campaign in the First World War. "The Monmouth" was sunk in enemy action with all hands. Forster was 15 years of age when he died in this incident. Douglas died on his way home from India in 1938. [actually 1936] It therefore meant that Boultie and her father were the only Boultons.
- A.C. Forster Boulton was a founding member of what is now the English Speaking Union. He stood as a Liberal candidate for the House of Commons and served in Asquith's [Herbert Henry Asquith, British Prime Minister 1908-16] Parliament.
- Boultie and her father were inveterate travellers together and she came with him at least three times to Canada before 1939 and among her papers were menu cards from the Canadian Pacific Line.
- In about 1938, Boultie with a friend, purchased a girls' boarding school in Carlisle where they were joint headmistresses until they retired in about 1962. [Margery and her partner sold the school in 1960.]
- In her retirement she continued to travel and she remained living in Carlisle until she moved to a retirement home in Siloth. Several people connected with The Grange went to collect Boulton memorabilia which Margery wanted to give to The Grange.
- She had a great gift for friendship and loyalty. Until close to the date of her death, former pupils known as "my old Girls" visited her regularly. On Margery's 90th birthday, her students organized a party of ex-pupils for her with some coming as far away as the Philippines.

In September 1852 in Toronto, a major loan exhibition of works of art was held to liquidate "the debt due on St. George's Church," the little Anglican church at the bottom of Grange Park. Young Mrs. Boulton -she had married William Henry in

1846- is listed in the catalogue of the exhibition as lending 12 pictures. Of these, four are hanging in this exhibition -the 2 Battle Scenes, the Windmill and Joseph Brant. [Excerpt from a report on an art exhibition held in The Grange Music Room, c.1986]

THE GRANGE AND THE COURTAULD

The coming of the Courtauld exhibition to the AGO is an exciting opportunity for The Grange to become involved in programming for a temporary exhibition. We will be one of only two areas in the whole gallery which is doing any type of programming for the casual visitor (the other is AGORA Restaurant which is preparing food from the south of France). A proposal was presented to the Canadian Department and to Linda Milrod who is the exhibition co-ordinator. It was then presented to Matthew Teitelbaum for approval. This proposal has several parts. First, the House Committee will set up the dining room to resemble a painting by the impressionist artist Caillebotte. He did a painting of his own dining room in 1876, entitled Lunch and we have similar serving pieces. We will show a photo of that painting and will also have response cards (similar to the ones in the Canadian Gallery) asking people to share stories that their grandparents might have told them about dining experiences. This idea comes from discussions with Doug Worts, Canadian Education Officer, on providing opportunities for the visitor to share experiences with us.

The second part consists of placing photo albums in the music room showing scenes of late 19th century Toronto so that people can make connections between the paintings done in France and what life was like here. We can move the round tables into the room and put chairs around them so that the visitor can sit down and be comfortable. We can also put out books on the decorative arts of the period. They should be safe, as there is always an interpreter on that floor. We would like to build on Victorian décor in the library and hope to make the room a bit more like the slide we have of it during Goldwin Smith's time. Unfortunately, we do not have the billiard table!

We will also be highlighting late nineteenth-century food. Anna Patrick has been trying out receipts from Whistler's Mother's Cookbook, and we have been looking at other books as well. Anne Yarmowich, the chef in the restaurant, will be making some period items from one of our cookbooks.

We will be encouraging our visitors to go up to the Canadian Galleries, through Prints and Drawings and up the stairs in the Labbatt Lounge. That way they can have an opportunity to see what Canadian artists were doing in the same period. We are really excited about this exhibition and glad that we can make some connections for our visitors.

- Jenny Rieger -